



VOL. IX, No. 1

SPRING 1976

PRICE \$2.00

THE EMD7 SHEKEL

Published by the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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The
AMERICAN ISRAEL
NUMISMATIC
ASSOCIATION
Celebrates
AMERICA'S
BICENTENNIAL YEAR
1776-1976



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. *THE SHEKEL* will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, *THE SHEKEL* will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

The Editor's Notebook . . .

In this momentous issue, we greet America's Bicentennial Year with a thrilling study by the indefatigable Sylvia Haffner. We welcome America's youngest numismatic writer, Ron Grad, age 17, son of Dr. Eli Grad, Pres., Hebrew College, Mass. as a regular columnist. We bid an adieu to a dear friend, "Maury" Gould who lightened the load of life with his warmth and friendliness. Maury's final column was written in the weeks prior to his hospitalization. And we welcome a new department in "*The Shekel*," Coins of Ancient Israel, the start of a major new series which will waken everyone to the joys of collecting Israel's earliest numismatic items. It will be sparked by David Hendin, a professional journalist who himself is an avid seeker of the earliest of Israel's days through her coinage. — G. G.

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THE AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. / An Educational Informational Non-Profit Organization: Published Quarterly. Membership \$8.00 per year. Send all remittances, undelivered magazines, change of address and zip code with old address label to P. O. Box 499, Fresh Meadows Station, Flushing, New York 11365.

Printed in the U. S. A.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Morris Bram



It was back in 1963 that the phone rang one day. The call was from a stranger, a friendly Bostonian who introduced himself as a numismatist with a special interest in Israel. He had called to suggest that my own interest in Israel and her numismatics matched his own.

That was the year that Maury Gould had been nominated Honorary Secretary of Israel's own now-famed early numismatic study group: the Israel Numismatic Society. For his efforts on behalf of Israel's numismatics, the dean of Israel's scholar-collectors, Leo Kadman was instrumental in having Maury appointed to the first Honorary Secretaryship in America.

My contacts with Maury remained by phone and mail until later in the Sixties when we met for the first time at the Miami convention of ANA in 1967. Now at last I had the cheerful, sincere face to join the vibrant New England voice.

It wasn't much later that AINA was born. From the outset, the vigor and ideas and writings of Maury Gould were part of the arsenal of public relations and organization-building creativity. It led to growth of AINA from a first handful of supporters to our mighty body of enthusiasts of today.

It was in Israel that Maury and I at last became friends. He and his wife Jean made it a point to join one of the early AINA Study Tours to Israel and on the bus we solidified the growing friendship. In the green Judean hills and in the sun-drenched ancient paths

on Massada, we exchanged ideas and tested far-out ideas. Maury's enthusiasm was unquenchable. If no one else was available to reach the numismatic press with stories of AINA programs, we all learned we could count on Maury.

It was Maury who suggested one of the most important monographs that AINA has published to date. Today the booklet is itself a collector's item. Check your library to see if you don't have a little bit of Maury in your home as a memory. The booklet is the same size as *The Shekel* with an Irish-green cover: *Israeli Numismatics and Its Bright Future*. Its text was rich with Maury's glowing appreciation of Israel — her history and her contributions to the numismatic field. He projected the value to the collector and when we look back at what has happened, of course his confidence was well justified.

The many contributions made by Maury — who helped AINA to grow as a member of her Board of Directors and as a regular contributor to *The Shekel* where he could share his knowledge with all of us — has been well-documented in the numismatic press and elsewhere in this issue of *The Shekel*.

In Maury's untimely death at 66, the entire world lost a true leader among men. We of AINA also lost someone we are so proud to call: friend.

Shalom,
Morris Bram

REFLECTIONS ON AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL AS ISRAEL CELEBRATES HER 28th ANNIVERSARY

A NUMISMATIC APPRECIATION OF FREEDOM

by Sylvia Haffner



Writer Sylvia Haffner is the author of "The History of Modern Israel's Money," first published in 1967 and reissued in a second edition in 1970. Since becoming active in numismatics in 1960, Mrs. Haffner has built a reputation as a researcher, exhibits judge, writer, and speaker.

She has been an Associate Editor of *The Shekel* from the start and her articles and medallic history series are well-known to *Shekel* readers.

Her memberships include the American Numismatic Association (life member 872), the Organization of International Numismatists, American Numismatic Society, Numismatic Literary Guild, American Israel Numismatic Association and an honorary life membership in many Israel Coin Clubs affiliated with AINA.

Sylvia and Manny Haffner moved to Israel in 1972, where they continued to pursue numismatic interests. Recently returned, they are now residing on Long Island, N. Y. Mrs. Haffner is affiliated with First Coinvestors in Albertson, N. Y., as advisor to the World Coin Society and Ancient Coins Society.

Who were these people and why did they start out on such an adventure? Anyone who watched them going aboard the ships could not help asking these questions. They did not appear to be unusual people. There were farmers and laborers, families with children, men alone, women alone and homeless orphans. All had reasons for coming!

Freedom of worship was so precious to themselves and their children that they came from many nations, the dispersed, the exiles, the unwanted came to the "promised land" to live without persecution. There were other freedoms too for which the new immigrants hoped. They believed they might have more to say about the way they were governed, a people with an endless determination to live in freedom and dignity in the new land.

The sonnet written by Emma Lazarus in 1884, engraved on the Statue of Liberty, could have also been written for the State of Israel:

"... Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free ..."

The United States is now celebrating its 200th anniversary of nationhood, while Israel is about to celebrate its 28th anniversary. The two nation's gallant fight to exist as democracies is almost identical in every respect. Both nations had one major principle in establishing their constitutions, that the people could and would live in

freedom from persecution. Here is a demonstration of their parallel beliefs as told in numismatics.

Freedom Coin Theme

Two coins, one American, one Israeli, both express "freedom" and by their very simplicity bring to the beholder the struggle to obtain this "liberty of Life."

On May 15, 1948, the State of Israel was born. For the first time in 2,000 years, Jews were to live under their own government in the land that was their birthplace. From 70 nations the dispersed, the exiles, the unwanted came home to their native land to live without persecution.

Upon the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the State of Israel a commemorative coin was issued, "The Ingathering of the Exiles." The reverse of the coin issued in 1959 depicts 11 immigrants, dressed in their native costumes, dancing "the Hora" in a circle. The circle is left open to welcome those yet to come. They represent the joy of those who have already entered the "Land of freedom," and their number affirms the 11 years in Israel's independence. In the center of the circle appears the Hebrew words; "The children shall come again to their own border," (Jeremiah 31:17). This coin represents the freedom of a persecuted people.

The new reverse design of the dollar for the U.S. Bicentennial coin and subsequent years, designed by Dennis R. Williams, depicts the Liberty Bell superimposed over the lunar surface. This coin is also representative of the freedom of a people, but for 200 years!

Commemorate Liberty

The "Libertas" and "Liberata" medals of the United States and the State of Israel graphically depict the similarity between the two nations, both commemorating their liberty.

A medal was struck to commemorate the American victory over Britain in the war of the American Revolution, the "Libertas Americana." Though conceived originally as a

medallic tribute to George Washington and the French commanders Count de Rochambeau and Count de Grasse for their victories over the British at Saratoga and Yorktown, the "Libertas Americana" medal became, by a natural extension, the very personification of our embryonic democracy. The idea for the medal was first suggested by Benjamin Franklin and produced in 1783 by the French Mint and paid for by Franklin out of his own personal funds. The medal was engraved by the French medallist Augustin Dupre.

The obverse of the medal depicts a classical head of liberty with flowing tresses, and behind, a liberty cap and rod, classical allusions to the granting of freedom from servitude. The inscription reads: "Libertas Americana," or American Liberty, and the date "July 4, 1776." The reverse of the medal depicts the United States as the infant Hercules, strangling two serpents; the figure of Minerva with an attacking feline (England) and the legend, a verse from the odes of Horace: "The dauntless child was not without the aid of the Gods."

The double personification of England through both the snakes and the lion represent England's economic strangulation of the American colonies. The snakes are the historical adversaries of Hercules and the lion was especially appropriate because of its heraldic identification with England. And how adroitly is the animal's tail placed between its legs. Thus, this medal conceived by Franklin has come to be recognized as the historical representation of American liberty!

A medal was also struck to commemorate the War of Independence in Israel. A few hours after the State of Israel was proclaimed, Arab armies invaded from all sides. Trans-Jordan, east of Palestine, sent its Arab Legion (trained by England) to surround Jerusalem and block the road to Tel-Aviv. Egypt's forces moved in from the south. Lebanon, Syria and Iraq attacked from the north. The Arabs could do little against the well-trained Jewish army, the Haganah. The



Independence theme is shared by the Bicentennial reverse of the U. S. half dollar, Independence Hall, and Israel's 25th anniversary 10-pound coin. The reverse of the Israel coin carries part of the nation's Declaration of Independence.



Israel's 11th anniversary five-pound coin, "The Ingathering of the Exiles," and the Bicentennial reverse of the Eisenhower dollar both speak for the freedom of their people.

Israelis drove the enemy back on all sides and Egypt signed an armistice in February of 1949.

This, the first medal struck by the State of Israel in 1958, and marking its 10th anniversary of nationhood, symbolizes an historic turning point for the Jewish people, the turning point from bondage to freedom, in its own state.

The reverse of the medal depicts the facsimile of a contemporary Roman coin which was struck to record Vespasian's conquest of Judea in 70 A.D. To the left stands the emperor, and on the right is the seated figure of a mourning Jewess beneath a seven-branched palm-tree that bears two clusters. The Latin inscription, "Judea Capta" encircles the scene. In the exergue, "S C", for "Senatus Consultum" (senatorial decree). A chain surrounds most of the rim, apart from the words, "The Dispersion of Judea" and the Hebrew year of Judea's overthrow, "3830."

The obverse has its motif, "Israel Freed." In the center is the selfsame seven branched palm-tree with its twin clusters. To the right of the tree is a kneeling man planting a sapling, to the left is a woman joyously lifting an infant in her arms. Around the rim is the Latin inscription, "Israel Liberata," and "The Tenth Anniversary of Israel's Freedom" in Hebrew and the Hebrew year of Judea reborn, "5718." The composition of this medal is meant to typify new life in Israel in freedom.

Two Independence Issues

The two Declarations of Independence are not only comparable through their commemorative coins, but most of all through their similarity in context.

The new reverse design of the half-dollar for the Bicentennial coin, designed by Seth G. Huntington, depicts the Independence Hall, a building in Philadelphia on Independence Square. This building houses the Liberty Bell and other historical memorabilia, as well as being the scene of the proclamation of the Declaration of Inde-

pendence. This coin with its beautiful rendering of Independence Hall brings to mind all of the treasures that it houses symbolic of American freedom.

The Declaration of Independence, adopted on July 4, 1776, by delegates of the 13 colonies, announced their separation from Great Britain and creating the United States. The declaration is a statement of the American theory of government. Three basic ideas were involved: (1) God has made all men equal and given them the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; (2) the main business of government was to protect these rights; (3) if a government tried to withhold these rights, the people were free to revolt and to set up a new government. The Declaration of Independence has been a source of pride and strength for every generation of Americans.

David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first premier, reads Israel's Declaration of Independence in the Tel-Aviv Museum Hall on the eve of May 14, 1948. An excerpt from this Declaration of Independence sounds as if it came from our very own:

"... it will rest upon foundations of liberty, justice and peace as envisioned by the Prophets of Israel. It will maintain complete equality of social and political rights for all its citizens, without distinction of creed, race or sex. It will guarantee freedom of religion and conscience, or language, education and culture. It will safeguard the Holy places of all religions. It will be loyal to the principles of the United Nations Charter ..."

Israel's 25th anniversary was commemorated by a series of coins struck in silver and gold in 1973. The reverse of the coins contains part of Israel's Declaration of Independence bearing the signatures of the founding fathers of the State of Israel. Beneath the signatures, in Hebrew, is an excerpt from the Declaration:

"... 'We hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz Israel, to be known as the State of Israel ...'"



The famous *Libertas Americana* medal marking America's success in its War of Independence and Israel's 10th anniversary medal marking the independence of that nation use Liberty themes. The Israel medal is a facsimile of the Roman *Judaea Capta* coin.



Both the United States and Israel have honored patriots on their commemorative coinage. The U.S. Bicentennial quarter carries a Colonial drummer boy, not to mention George Washington. Israel issued coins in 1969 honoring its war dead with the inscription, "And no man knoweth the place of his burial."

The first 25 years of Israel's history have not been easy, but then neither was ours! Israel has been through three wars and the perennial conflict along the borders has taken a toll of the lives of many of the country's finest youths. We too have seen many wars in our 200 years of nationhood and have also given of our finest youth.

Since the rebirth of the State of Israel in 1948, the population has grown five-fold. They have brought new life to a land that was desolate. They have reclaimed deserts and swamps and built hundreds of agricultural settlements. The country has established itself, from purely agrarian beginnings into a modern industrial nation. Does it not read like the history of the United States?

Both Honor Patriots

Both the United States and Israel pay a similar homage to their "patriots" whose courageous lives led to freedom.

The new reverse of the quarter for the Bicentennial coin, designed by Jack L. Ahr, depicts a Colonial drummer boy. This design is similar to the famous painting "Spirit of '76" painted by Archibald M. Willard in 1876 to honor the patriots of 1776. One such painting hangs in Abbott Hall, Marblehead, Mass. There is no question of the patriotism of the early pioneers who fought in the American Revolution. Many paintings and statues attest to their bravery and dedication and it is only fitting that they should be immortalized on our coins.

Israel also issued a commemorative coin in 1969 dedicated to those who, at the sacrifice of their lives, safeguard the rights of men to live in freedom, independence and peace. The coin issued in both silver and gold also commemorates the 21st anniversary of Independence. In Israel, there is no memorial for the "Unknown Soldier." Israel is too small for its soldiers to be "unknown." The Israeli has gone through too much suffering, has come too close to extinction not to feel the

pang of every young soldier's passing as an agonizing loss.

Not always do they know where they fell, of what was their last resting place. Along the wayside on the roads have been left the charred skeletons of hastily-armoured trucks that were caught in ambush by the Arab guerrillas on the ascent of the then narrow winding road to Jerusalem, in convoys freighted only with desperately-needed food for the citizens of the capital. Along with the remains of the skeletons of the vehicles are plaques with the names inscribed, and on Remembrance Day, these can be found garlanded with wreaths and flowers.

One day there shall be peace in this region and the world will recall with honor all who in steadfast courage and true meekness, unselfishly yielded everything, their youth, their dreams, their future so that others could win security, happiness and peace.

The reverse of the coin contains the Hebrew inscription, "And no man knoweth the place of his burial" (Deuteronomy, 34:6), the letters arranged in the shape of a cairn. On the right is a net-covered helmet and an olive-sapling and roots. The obverse contains the four Hebrew letters of the word, "Shalom, the "Shin-Lamed-Vav-Mem". The word "Shalom" means peace and speaks out to all men and women of goodwill.

Freedom's High Price

The Israel Masada medal speaks out for free people wherever they may be. "We shall remain free men" has been the hue and cry for all peoples of the world since time immemorial!

On the escarpment of the Judean Hills, high above the western shore of the Dead Sea, rises the flat-topped Rock of Masada, scene of the final stand of the Jews against the Romans in the First Revolt. Its fall in the year 73 A.D. marked a long interruption of Jewish independence, except for the brief period of the Bar-Kochba Revolt of 132-135 A.D. until the State of Israel was proclaimed in 1948.

The drama enacted at Masada is known to us from the works of Josephus. The principal architect was King Herod, who converted the Rock into a formidable stronghold; it eventually shelters the last insurgents in their desperate resistance and so, for the Jewish people, became a symbol of the struggle for freedom. Left with a grim choice between surrender and death, the 960 Jewish patriots, led by Elazer ben Ya'ir and at his urging, preferred a "death of glory to a life of infamy" and "disdained the idea of outliving the loss of liberty."

One thousand eight hundred and ninety one years afterwards, the archaeologists of Israel began exploring the site with the help of volunteer teams from all over the world. They have unearthed Herodian palaces, store-rooms, baths and reservoirs, and signs of conflagration in the building; without a doubt, this was the stage of the ultimate tragedy. In the burnt-out rooms, thousands of coins were found, most of them belonging to the independent Jewish authority, besides a number of previous fragments of scrolls which are likely to shed important light on the history of the era and on the famous Dead Sea Scrolls.

The obverse of the Masada medal recalls an ancient shield. In the center is a composition in relief of Hebrew characters, recalling towers and cre-

nellations of a fortress: the Hebrew letters spell out, "Masada shall not fall again." Around the rim there runs an unbroken fresco — not unworthy of the Acropolis, of the heyday of Athens itself. It is of builders, delvers and warriors, with their tools and with their weapons, as a sign and assurance of that pledge.

The reverse depicts the Rock of Masada in relief. At its base, the remnants of the camps of the besieging legions of Rome are distinctly recognizable. The Hebrew inscription above above the Rock spells out, "We shall remain free men."



Masada: The fortress over the Dead Sea.

Photograph: Peter Merom

COMING IN NEXT ISSUE

OPERATION BERNHARDT: The amazing story of Counterfeiting in the Concentration Camps.

HOW THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS WERE FOUND: Part One of the dramatic actual historic events of discovery and identification.

NEWS AND ADVANCE INFORMATION: The Greater New York Coin Convention, May 6-9, 1976.



MAURICE M. GOULD, 66

The President and the Board of Directors of AINA are saddened to announce the untimely death of Maurice M. Gould, one of America's best-known and well-loved numismatic experts. Mr. Gould shared his knowledge and love for numismatics, and especially his special interest in the numismatics of Israel, with the world. He was a leading writer/lecturer/activist on behalf of AINA and numerous projects relating to Israel.

He was a member of the Board of Directors of AINA and ANA, a regular columnist for *The Shekel* with his special columns, *The Gould-en Notebook*. He was especially well-known to West Coast collectors as he was a frequent speaker at coin club meetings, forums and conventions in that area.

The numismatic world learned of his death at 66 from a front-page

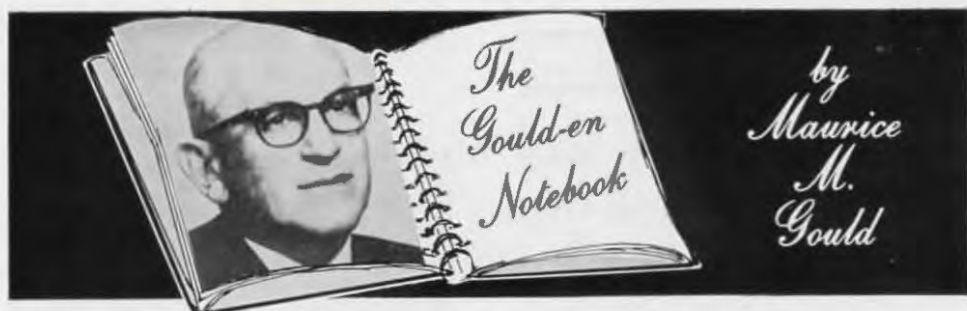
newspaper article in *Coin World* which cited his widespread numismatic interests.

Maurice M. Gould, a former New England dean of numismatists won the same reputation among his West Coast peers. He died at UCLA Medical Center, Westwood, Calif., on Saturday, Nov. 29. He had been hospitalized with a coronary condition since mid-October.

A member of the board of directors of the American Numismatic Association at the time of his death, Mr. Gould was no less active on the national and regional numismatic level than he was on the local level.

A past president of the New England Numismatic Association, Organization of International Numismatists, Canadian Numismatic Society of New

Cont. on page 13



More than 100 years ago W. C. Prime, well known author and numismatist, wrote: *"But let us glance a moment at this story, and see whether, in the days of Abraham, men had any knowledge of coin. For the first question before us is, when did coin money originate?"* Here are some of the facts and arguments used by the famed expert.

Although the Hebrew word, which in the case of Abraham, is translated "shekels," it may have been used by Moses in writing the account with the design of fixing the value of the metal intelligibly to the Hebrew readers of the history. It is not to be supposed that Abraham paid out shining coins, which in the times of Simon Macca-beus bore the emblems of the Hebrew faith. On the contrary, he weighed out the silver, 400 shekels "current with the merchant," but not current money as the translation has it.

The question is, what was a shekel or any other given quantity of silver current with merchants in those days?

It is mentioned that the grandson of Abraham was purchasing land and paid for it with 100 pieces of silver. The Hebrew word, when translated into "Pieces of silver" could also be properly translated into the word "Lambs." Was it 100 lambs that Jacob paid or was it 100 coins or was it the metal value of 100 lambs?

In one of the early Egyptian tombs, among the many illustrations on the walls showing the customs and story of the ancient Egyptians, there is a picture of a scribe weighing and counting out the wealth of his master.

The Egyptians weighed out gold and silver by a weight shaped like a lamb. It is thought that the weight was originally determined by the value of a sheep or lamb. In the biblical period,

cattle were probably the most common medium of exchange and barter and a sheep had a fixed value.

Prime stated:

"The evidence, however, that the price of cattle was the earliest method of fixing the value of money, and that gold and other metals were valued according to the number of cattle a given quantity would buy, is found in a number of instances. Our own language contains a proof of it, since the word 'pecuniary' is derived from the Latin word 'pecunia' (money) and this was derived from 'pecus' (a flock of sheep or cattle)."

Even the famed Greek Homer does not mention "coin money" but speaks of a bar of brass as being equal in value to one ox and a woman slave as worth four oxen. He often spoke of oxen and sheep as wealth.

It is also true that gold and silver became valuable as ornaments long before they were used for coins, and the Bible mentions bringing an earring, as well as a lamb or piece of money. The rings and bracelets became commonly used as a medium of exchange and rings in gold and silver have been found in the old tombs.

Ring money was used by the ancient Britons even before they were invaded by Rome and numbers have been found in England and Ireland. In 1832 a quantity were dug up and they varied in size, but certain rings had a fixed weight and there is no reason to believe they did not pass as currency.

It was about 900 years before Christ that the first money was actually coined. The Lydians are given credit for this and Lydian coins were mentioned by the famed historian, Herodotus; these would be one of the earliest if not the earliest coins prepared.

On November 29, 1975, Maury Gould died. This is his final column in The Shekel he loved.

ISRAEL'S 25th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COIN: MEGILLAH? TORAH? ERROR?

by D. Bernard Hoenig

Based upon official IGCAM mintage figures, more than 150,000 collectors probably own a commemorative error that has thus far slipped by Israel's most astute numismatists.

The 1974 26th Anniversary silver coin, designed by artists Rothschild and Lippman (ROLI), depicts an ancient scroll on the obverse bearing numerous Hebrew words that appear to flow from the scroll's *left* side. A perpendicular inscription with the coin's theme, "*The Revival of Heb-*

rew", appears to rest on parchment coming from the *left* opening of the scroll.

While there are many ancient biblical scrolls, Roli's scroll suggests that of the *Megillah*, the ancient single scroll associated with the joyous Purim festival commemorating the victory of Persia's Jews over Haman through the leadership and courage of the beautiful Queen Esther and her saintly uncle, Mordechai.



Coin shows symbolic opening to left.



Megillah opens to right.

A glance at the photograph of an open *Megillah* quickly reveals the obvious design error of the 1974 coin. As with any scroll of Jewish book, the *Megillah* opens from the *right* side: Not the left! The reason for the right-sided opening is to allow the text and all subsequent passages to be read from right to left, a structural fact peculiar to the Hebrew language. The coin's

ancient scroll is almost identical to that of the photograph: A single scroll with a ridged top and bottom; a short top handle and a longer bottom handle.



Double-scroll Torah

The photograph of the double-scrolled Torah confirms the error and should refute any argument that Roli's

scroll represents the *right* scroll of the Torah and not the *single-scrolled Megillah*. Firstly, if this was in fact their intent, then the coin is certainly poorly designed because any reproduction of the Torah customarily depicts both scrolls so as to preclude the possibility that it is anything but the Torah.

In addition, the top and bottom handles of the Torah (called the *Aytz Chaim*) are of uniform size so that the scrolls can be easily rolled up, ready to accommodate the silver or gold ornaments that often adorn the *Aytz Chaim*.

Design errors are not unknown to the *State of Israel*. A similar "embarrassing moment" occurred in 1970 when Israel minted High Holiday stamps featuring world famous synagogues (*IS 514, Scott 425-429*). The 15 agora stamp pictured the *Great Synagogue of Tunis*, containing the complete name of G-d, in Hebrew, which may not be mutilated or destroyed according to *Halacha* (religious law). Unfortunately, by the time the government caught the error, millions of the stamps had been cancelled and ultimately destroyed. The stamp, today, is prized by many collectors.

Perhaps the *26th Anniversary Commemorative Coin* will see a rise in value as a rare, collectors item, once the design error is acknowledged.

GOULD (Cont.)

England, New England Exonumists Society, Collectors Club of Boston, Society of Philatelists and Numismatists and the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles, his knowledge ran the full gamut of numismatic interests.

Mr. Gould also was a past vice president of the Token and Medal Society and a director of the Organization of International Numismatists, Canadian Numismatic Association, Canadian Paper Money Society, Token and Medal Society, Society of Paper Money Collectors and California State Numismatic Association.

He held fellowships in the Royal Numismatic Society, the Canadian Numismatic Research Society and the

American British Numismatic Society; was a founder and past executive director of the Numismatic Literary Guild, and a recipient of the guild's "Best Syndicated Columnist" award.

Mr. Gould's career in numismatic organization — an effort to which he gave himself unsparingly throughout his lifetime — began when he organized the first coin and stamp club in the famed Boston Latin School, which he attended as a youth.

His expertise in New England Colonial coins and paper money and classical Canadian numismatics inevitably led him into professional association with the Copley Coin Co. of Boston, in which he shared a partnership for 16 years.

COINS OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

by David Hendin



So many times I have shown one of my small ancient bronze coins to a friend and have heard the comment, "A coin? That looks more like a stone."

"This is not a stone," I reply. "This is a coin that was issued more than 2,000 years ago by the Maccabean king of ancient Israel."

My friend will then say: "My goodness! Yes, I can see the design now, and the writing. Something like that must be worth a lot of money."

"Not really," I answer. "Of course the prices can range up into the thousands of dollars, but some of the most interesting coins, like the one I just showed you, can be bought for around 10 dollars, even less. And they are quite easy to obtain from many reliable dealers."

By this time in the conversation, more often than not, I can begin to detect a glimmer of interest in the eye of my friend. But I must be careful. It is only a glimmer. If I rush to show my whole collection, carefully explaining each of the rarities and oddities, I may, in my eagerness, fan the fire too rapidly and blow it out instead of encouraging its growth.

I have a feeling this happens quite frequently. I can promise you, however, that it won't happen here. This new column on *Coins of Ancient Israel* will be dedicated to introductory aspects of ancient Jewish numismatics. The editors of *The Shekel* have figured that at the rate of one column every two months it should take me just over 120 years to cover all of the basic information. After that I'm afraid you'll have to bear with us as we begin to repeat.

I hope that everyone interested in Jewish history and numismatics will find something of interest in this column. After all there are strong links between the ancient and the modern.

I want to warn you that I'm not one who believes that an ancient coin is something to be bought, bragged about, logged into a collection and then filed away for safe keeping.

No indeed. More than any other collectible I have ever encountered, an ancient coin is something to be savored and studied and mulled over. I frequently carry a new acquisition in my pocket for weeks—a luxury not available, for example, with a fragile proof specimen or a larger work of art.

I don't figure a few weeks in an otherwise empty pocket will damage a coin that has survived the ravages of two millennia. A few times a day I will remove that coin from my pocket, feel it, smell it, study its subtle lines, ponder its patina and design.



This bronze coin of the Jewish War Against Rome could once have been carried by an heroic defender of Massada.

If it is one of the common but beautiful small bronze coins of the *Jewish War Against Rome* (66-70 C.E.) I will wonder if it once belonged to some Zealot, who had it in his purse when he fled Jerusalem and sought haven at Massada.

Cont. on page 21

The ALEPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. I saw an ad in which the dealer listed two coins as "key" coins. What is a "key" coin? R. Y., Gulfport, Miss.

A. A "key" coin is generally accepted to mean the most difficult coin to acquire in a given series. By connotation, most dealers list the most expensive coin or two coins in a series as "key coins." For example, dealers list the 1963 Seafaring as the "key" coin of the 5 Lirot (more commonly known as Pound) Proof series only because of its high price based on demand. Because of the wide distribution of the prior proof pieces, you will find more dealers able to supply you the Seafaring proof than a brilliant Bar-Mitzvah or Negev gem proof. A better example would be, if you were putting together a brilliant uncirculated pruta set, it would be easier to buy the 50 Pruta 1949 with pearl (*Kagan 15*) which is listed at \$75 and is Israel's second rarest commercial coin than to find some of the early BRILLIANT UNCIRCULATED bronze 10 Pruta (an error; it should have been "Prutot") with and without pearl. The giveaway as to condition is shown by the trade coin type sets *Kagan 1, 2, and 3*. In set 3, the 18 Trade Coin Type Set issued in 1964 and a few years following, the bronze coins are in most cases acid-washed, polished, or replated. In the 16 Trade Coin Set of 1962 (*K-1*) and the 18 Trade Coin Type Set of 1963, the bronze coins although uncirculated, are now toned from the reaction of the acid of the velvet and the sulphur in the cardboard backing. You therefore can see that the "key" coin or coins in a given series have to pertain to the difficulty of obtaining the desired "key" coin in a required condition rather than the price attached because of demand.

Q. Is there any particular significance to the stalk of leaves on the obverse of the 1961 Bar Mitzvah Independence Day Coins? G. G., N. Y. C.

A. Yes. This is an olive-branch containing ten leaves and three olives, standing for the thirteen years of Israel's statehood.

Q. What in your opinion is the largest underlying theme of Israel's Coins, Medals, and Paper money? L. G., Pittsburg, Pa.

A. I would say that tying in an ancient feature with its modern counterpart would show to be the largest group by far. In commercial coinage it is the adaptation of design from ancient coins. In the 5 IL we find an ancient ship coupled with a modern ship. The 1964 Independence Day Coin has an ancient capitol and part of a pillar coupled with a relief of the various museums located on "Museum Hill." This would make a wonderful topical subject for discussion at your local INS meeting.

Q. Somebody showed me an Israel mint error that they said was worth \$500. It was a 1973 25 Agorot piece that was struck on a nickel 1/2 Lira blank rather than the usual bronze blank. Is it worth the \$500? P. M., Ohio.

A. Nahrele. This is no mint error. It is a coin from the 25th Anniversary Special sets which were available from AINA in which all the coins were struck from cupro-nickel planchets and carried the six pointed star which is the mintmark of the Jerusalem mint. If my memory is right, these sets sold for about five dollars and are now in dealers hands at about fifteen dollars.

DR. LEO KADMAN CONTRIBUTIONS CITED BY DR. E. W. KLIMOWSKY AT MEETING OF TEL-AVIV INS

The death of Dr. Leo Kadman on Dec. 27, 1963, was recalled at a meeting of the Israel Numismatic Society, Tel Aviv branch, at the Kadman Numismatic museum in Tel Aviv, reported *Coin World* here recently. The meeting was held Dec. 25, with a lecture by Dr. E. W. Klimowsky speaking on "Numismatic Basis of Minting Hashmonian and Bar-Kokhba Coins."

A contribution of 135,000 Swiss francs from the Kadman-Kaufman family provided most of the money for the construction of the Kadman Numismatic Museum, built by the city of Tel Aviv and opened on April 1, 1962. In addition, Dr. Kadman contributed 4,000 ancient Greek, Roman and Jewish coins as a gift to the people of Israel.

Dr. Kadman went to Palestine in 1920, abandoning an academic career and engaged in agricultural work and later construction projects.

His interest in numismatics developed after his arrival in Palestine. For a score of years he was active as a collector and numismatic writer.

As Dr. Kadman was giving the address of welcome at the International Numismatic Commission Convention in Jerusalem, Dec. 27, 1963, he collapsed at the podium and died.

With Hanan Pavel he was invited to submit to the Israel government in 1948 designs for the first coins of the new state. Designs for eight new coins were prepared by the pair, with the help of Ote Wallish, an artist, and in cooperation with A. Eylon, government printer of Israel.

In recalling the experience, Dr. Kadman commented, "Anyone who has been in a similar situation will agree that no greater satisfaction could be given to a numismatist than the opportunity to participate in the creation of the coins of his country."

In a tribute given to Dr. Kadman at a meeting of the Israel Numismatic Society on Jan. 28, 1964, Dr. Klimowsky said "His permanent merit was and will remain that he inaugurated the systematic study of the city-coins of ancient Palestine. His treatises on the coinage of Aelia Capitolina, Caesarea in Palestine (which he called 'Caesarea Maritima') and of Akko-Ptolemais have opened the way to a comprehensive analysis of the historic, epigraphic and mythologic aspects of this richly diversified field of numismatics."

"The first four volumes of the *Corpus Nummorum Palaestinensium*, written by Kadman, have become indispensable tools for any scientific study of the coins of this area," Dr. Klimowsky said.

"His last work was planned in collaboration with Dr. Leo Mildenberg; it was devoted to the coinage of the Bar-Kokhba war and will be published by Dr. Mildenberg. His last lecture on the Coin Hoards found in Palestine," read after his decease by Dr. Jenkins, would, together with the respective studies of Arie Kindler and Dr. Klimowsky on the monetary functions of the Jewish and city-coins in Palestine and Phoenicia, have certainly led him to a new vista of Palestinian numismatics, viz. the metrological one," Dr. Klimowsky concluded.

JUDAICA

AMERICANA

by
Roni
Grad



JUDAH PHILIP BENJAMIN: THE CONFEDERATE STATESMAN

In this Bicentennial year, I fervently hope that all Americans remember that the common heritage and common destiny of this great country of ours which unite us are much more important than the differences which separate us. I pray that Americans will never again rise against each other. Only united in strength can we withstand the political challenges which threaten our country from without, and the economic and social challenges which threaten it from within.

As a reminder of a time when there was disunity, I would call to your attention the sad story of Judah Philip Benjamin, the Confederate Statesman.

Six different Confederate \$2 notes (Criswell numbers 286 and 334-338) share a common design: an illustration personifying the South striking down the Union in upper center, and a portrait of a bearded gentleman in the upper left. It is the portrait which makes these notes fascinating items of Numis-

matic Judaica.

The portrait is that of Judah Philip Benjamin: Cabinet officer who rose to the position of Secretary of State of the Confederate States of America. Jews, like all other Americans, found themselves divided and fighting on both sides of the tragic Civil-War. Judah Benjamin was the only Jew to achieve a position of prominence in the Confederate government.

Collectors of bonds may wish to note that his portrait appears on a number of Confederate bonds as well.

Born in 1811 in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands of British parents, and brought to the U. S. as a child, Judah Philip Benjamin is considered by some to have been the most prominent 19th century American Jew. He was highly regarded as a lawyer whose services were sought in connection with some of the most important legal cases of his time. As a lawyer, Mr. Benjamin made a great deal of money, and as a poli-

Cont. on page 32



Judah P. Benjamin, one of the most prominent Jews of the Nineteenth Century



METAL WORKING INDUSTRY HONORED IN NEW STATE MEDAL

The striking of a new State Medal featuring the Metal Working Industry was announced in November by Israel. This is the third in the series of medals on Israel's industry.

The metal working industry had its beginnings in small workshops that served mainly the farming population. Productive capacity increased over the years, and in the last decade the industry has developed very rapidly. Once based on hand-tools and small-scale equipment, it has turned into an industry rich in capital and expertise, producing a wide range of products for the local market and for export. The data on the development of exports in the various sectors of the metal working industry indicate a striking increase, especially in the area of science-based sophisticated products, an increase resulting from massive investment in research and development. It is this dynamic growth and development that has made it one of the basic industries of the Israel economy.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MEDAL:

Obverse: In the center, an anvil—which has symbolized metal working since its beginnings. Thin lines suggest the form of an aeroplane and a press which indicate the achievements of this industry in the country. In the upper half, the wording: "the Israel Metal Working Industry", in Hebrew and English. Below, the date, 1975. Reverse: Seven-branched candlestick fitting into the wheels of world industry, representing Israel's imports and exports. On the rim, the inscription in Hebrew and English: "Ministry of Commerce & Industry".

The medal has been issued in bronze 59mm diameter/Weight: 95g. The Metal Industry Medal will be distributed by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation. It can be ordered by sending a check for \$7.00 to AINA, P. O. Box 499, Fresh Meadows Sta., Flushing, N. Y. 11365. N. Y. residents, please add applicable tax.

NEW SLIDE LECTURES DEVELOPED FOR AINA BY INS OF CLEVELAND

Morris Bram, President of AINA announced in December, 1975 that the Israel Numismatic Society of Cleveland was given authorization to represent AINA in a total audio-visual capacity.

Stan Yulish has been appointed Chairman of the INS of Cleveland Slide Committee and has outlined an ambitious program for 1976. "We will build on the outstanding nucleus of slide lectures developed by Claire and Ben Abelson," said Stan.

The following slide lectures were prepared by the Abelsons and are available:

- # 1 — *Hebrew Dates*
- # 2 — *Coin Medals of Historical Cities*
- # 3 — *State Medals of Israel*
- # 4 — *5 Pound Portrait of Israel*
- # 5 — *10 Pound Portrait of Israel*

The Committee has promised to have five programs ready by the end of February:

- # 6 — *Military Insignia* — Sanford Brown
- # 7 — *Paper Money of Israel* — Richard Wengel
- # 8 — *My Favorite Medals* — Max Gladstone
- # 9 — *Numismatic Reflections of Ghetto Lodz* — Award Exhibit — Stan Yulish
- # 10 — *Israel's Stamps & Coins* — Al Friedberg and Stan Yulish

Additional slide lectures to be available by September 1976 include:

- # 11 — *Profile of the Interim Period* — Israel from 1948-50 — Award Exhibit — Stan Yulish

- # 12 — *Sporting and Marching Medals of Israel* — Milton Shapiro
- # 13 — *Symbols on Coins* — Ray Nolan
- # 14 — *Judaica* — Jacob Hennenberg
- # 15 — *The Holy Land* — Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow — Reverend J. Misseldine, INS of Michigan
- # 16 — *Errors on Israel Coins & Paper Money* — Stan Yulish
- # 17 — *Massada* — Stan Yulish

AINA affiliates wishing to order slide lectures should contact: Ray Nolan, AINA Slide Library, P. O. Box 81308, Cleveland, Ohio 44181. Home: (216) 941-7911; Work: (216) 433-7300.

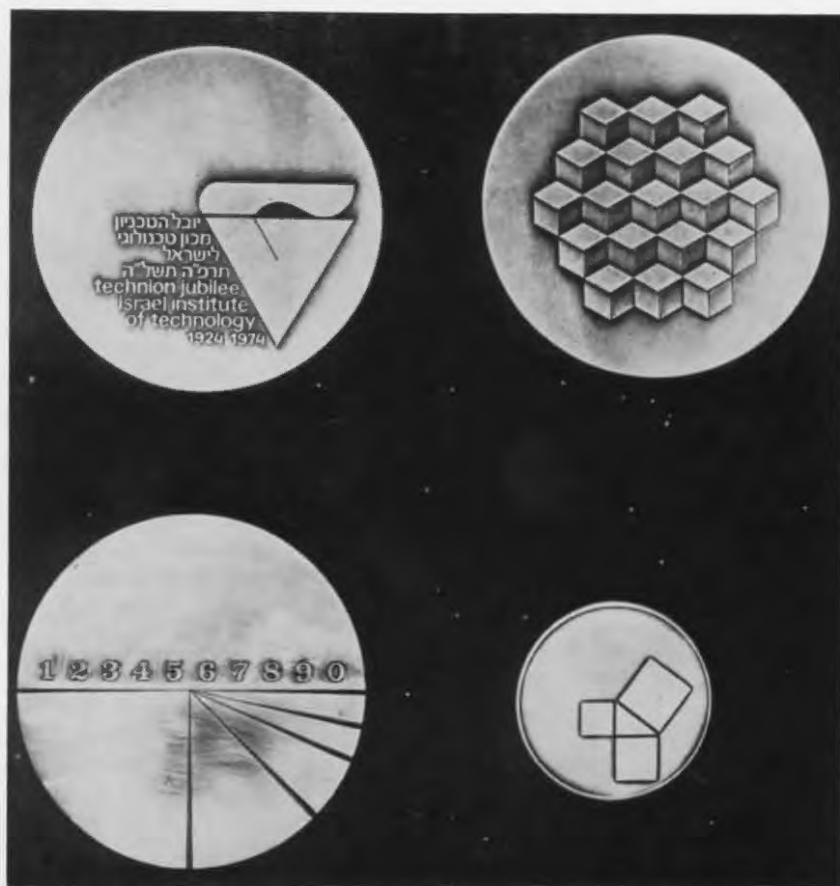
Ray Nolan will maintain the slide lectures library and all records pertaining to this program.

Stan Yulish welcomes comments on this planned slide lecture program. The Committee would like to know about any completed slide lectures that might be available. Volunteers to prepare slide lectures on their specialties are invited to contact him at: 600 Rockefeller Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

The INS of Cleveland lecture slide committese consists of the following members:

Chairman — Stanley Yulish; *Distribution and Cataloging*: Ray Nolan, Henry Bloser; *Publicity* — Milt Shapiro; *Photography and Art Work*: Richard Wengel, Bart Holdstein, Norman Rawson, Jake Hennenberg; *Script*: Max Gladstone, Sanford Brown, Bill Berkman, Leo Kastner; and *Corresponding Secretary* — Max Gladstone.

A UNIQUE STATE MEDAL SET



TECHNION HONORED IN BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD MEDALS

For over five decades the *Technion*—Israel's *Institute of Technology* has had a vital role in the development of Israel—in industry, agriculture, defense, architecture, construction and many other fields. The *Technion* is the oldest among Israel's universities. The *Jewish National Fund* acquired a site in an undeveloped section of Haifa, while the country was still part of the Ottoman Empire. The Russia tea baron, K. Wissotsky, and the New York banker-philanthropist, Jacob Schiff, donated funds for construction. The foundation stone was laid in April

1912. From the start the *Technion* was geared to meet the needs of building a country that was largely undeveloped. The Department of Technology was first established, later branching out to the faculties of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Chemical Engineering.

The establishment of the State, mass immigration, and the rapid expansion of the Israel economy brought a new era to the *Technion*. Construction of a great new campus—*Technion City* on Mount Carmel—was undertaken in the early 1950's. The Faculty of Aeronau-

tical Engineering has been instrumental in the emergence of Israel's aircraft industry. The Faculty of Agricultural Engineering has helped mechanize production. The Department of Food Engineering trains professional manpower for the food industry. The remarkable growth of Israel's electronics industry has been closely linked with *Technion*-trained electrical engineers, while modern management methods were developed by *Technion*-trained industrial managers. New *Technion* departments were also established in the sciences: Mathematics, physics and chemistry. In recent years, the *Institute* has added departments of Computer Science, Bio-Medical Engineering, Materials Engineering and Solid State Physics. In 1970 the *Haifa Medical School* merged with the *Technion*, thus increasing involvement in the life sciences.

In October 1973, General Amos Horev assumed office as President. Currently as *Technion* has 9,000 students (of whom 3,000 are studying for the M.Sc. and D.Sc. degrees), 1,500 academic staff members and 21 depart-

ments covering a wide range of engineering and science disciplines.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MEDALS
OBVERSE: *The Bronze 59mm Medal — in the centre of a three-dimensional, modular structure, based on the square as one of the three fundamental forms (square, circle, triangle).*

The Silver 45mm Medal — Mathematics, which constitutes the fundamental elements in all technological development, is represented by figures and by a circular area divided into segments according to set ratios. The gold 35mm Medal—The Theory of Pythagoras symbolizes the direct relationship between the theoretical development and its practical application.

REVERSE: *(The same in all three medals): The emblem of the Technion on the lower right hand and beside in the inscription, in Hebrew and English "Jubilee of the Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology (1924-1974)".*

ANCIENT ISRAEL (Cont.)

Possibly the owner of the coin was the cowardly Jewish General Joseph ben Matthias, who defected to Vespasian and became the turncoat historian Flavius Josephus. Or, more interesting yet, perhaps the coin was used by the Jewish princess Berenice (sister of King Agrippa II) to pay a servant who carried a passionate note to her Roman lover Titus, future Emperor of Rome.

The beauty of it is that your guess is as good as mine concerning the history of any one of these coins. Each has been protected by the parched Israeli climate for some 2,000 years and then brought to light and given new life, not as a coin of the realm but as a key to the mind. The doors this key can open will be limited only by your imagination.

AINA PATHS CROSS IN LOBBY

Two of the members of the 1974 AINA Study Tour to Israel were Mr. and Mrs. Mort Zerder of the INS of Queens (New York City) and Dr. and Mrs. Herb Lippitz of the INS of Illinois. The tour to Israel was a way for the families to learn about each other and to share the excitement of their mutual interest in Israel and her numismatics.

Mort Zerder made a repeat visit to Israel late in 1975 and had barely stepped into the lobby of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem when he spotted familiar faces: The Lippitz family . . . also in Israel for the happy family occasion of the Bar Mitzvah of their son. The Bar Mitzvah ceremony was unusual in that it was held atop Massada.

EPHRAIM LEVY
SENDS A LETTER
AND A GIFT TO
HIS FRIEND
MORRIS BRAM
IN AMERICA
FROM ISRAEL



Dear Morris,

It has been a long time since I saw you in Jerusalem on the last A.I.N.A. study tour in Israel. I did however receive a small reminder from you through the last "Shekel" which I enjoyed reading with nostalgia.

As it has already become a tradition, I am sending you again this year the medal of the Jerusalem 1975 March which took place in Jerusalem on the 24.9.1975.

Once again the march took place under the auspices of the Israel Defence Forces with over 30,000 men women and children participating.

This year the marchers were divided into three groups that marched to Jerusalem in three columns from different directions. The march was concluded in the afternoon with a colourful parade through the streets of Jerusalem to the delight of its inhabitants and many tourists from all over the country and abroad.

I hope you will like the medal which will enhance your marvelous collection of medals.

I trust that my letter will find you and Lena in good health and in your usual good spirits as always.

I hear occasionally from our mutual friend Yitzhak about you and your vigorous activities for the benefit of A.I.N.A. and Israel Numismatics.

Please convey my best regards to my friends on the A.I.N.A. Board whom I hope to see in Israel on your forthcoming trip in 1976.

Malca joins me with regards and best wishes to all of your.

Ephraim Levy

(Ephraim Levy was Director of North America for IGCAM during 1973-74.)

CHAIM WEIZMANN CENTENNARY STATE MEDAL TO BE STRUCK IN BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD

Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. Ltd. is planning the release of a 1975 Chaim Weizmann Centenary state medal for the early part of 1976. The medal will be struck in 59-millimeter bronze, 37-mm. silver and 35-mm. gold.

Chaim Arziel Weizmann was born Nov. 27, 1874, in Motol, Russia. Weizmann played a leading part in the Zionist movement from his youth.

During World War I, he gave valuable assistance to the British munitions industry by devising a process to

manufacture acetone from maize. He also began successful negotiations with the British Government for the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine, culminating in the Balfour Declaration, November 1917.

Weizmann was elected president of the World Zionist Organization in 1921, a position which he held until 1931 and again from 1935 until 1946. In 1929 the World Zionist Congress ratified his plan to organize an extended Jewish Agency.

The Zionist leader's accomplishments were many during World War II. He resumed highly important work in chemistry on behalf of the Allies, particularly in connection with the production of synthetic rubber. Weizmann was also a pioneer in experiments in fermentations, petrochemicals and food proteins.

Weizmann's talks with U. S. President Harry S. Truman were crucial to the declaration of the State of Israel. In 1949 he was elected the first president of the State of Israel.

Chaim Weizmann died Nov. 9, 1952 and is buried in Yad Weizmann, Rehovot, Israel. The burial site is a national memorial.

Obverse of the Chaim Weizmann Centenary medal portrays the Zionist leaders with the inscription, "Chaim Weizmann, First President of Israel," in English and Hebrew. Reverse depicts a crown with legend "Crown of Learning and Statehood" in Hebrew and English. Rim inscription reads in Hebrew and English, "Birth Centenary 1874-1974."





BRONZE AND SILVER MEDAL HONOR 50 YEARS OF HEBREW U.

The official opening ceremony of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem was held on Mount Scopus on April 11, 1925. Among those present were Jewish leaders headed by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, while the guest of honor was Lord Arthur James Balfour. But the history of the University dates back many years prior to this ceremony. In 1882, Professor Hermann Zvi Schapira, a mathematician at the University of Heidelberg, Germany and a Zionist leader, propounded the need to establish a Jewish institution of higher learning in Israel.

In 1918 Weizmann laid the University's cornerstone on Mount Scopus. The event took place only a few months after the Balfour Declaration, and World War I was not yet over. Indeed, the front was only a few miles distant from Jerusalem.

Seven years of intensive work separated the cornerstone laying from the opening of the University in 1925 when thousands of people gathered together on Mount Scopus, all of them deeply conscious of participating in a historic event.

An Historic Site

Mount Scopus was the site on which the Roman legions had encamped as they prepared to lay siege to Jerusalem in the battle that was to spell the fall of the Temple. To its east stretches the Judean Desert, the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea, the area through which the Children of Israel first entered the Promised Land. The site on which the University was founded, and its foundation, together symbolize, on the one hand, the generations of persecution suffered through the ages by the Jewish people; on the other, that people's firm resolve to establish here, in this land, a homeland for itself, a centre serving not merely as a refuge, but above all, as a focus for spiritual and cultural creativity and renaissance, in fulfillment of its millennia-old vision.

Today, the University functions on four campuses: Givat Ram, Mount Scopus, the Medical Centre at Ein Karem, and Rehovot (home of the Faculty of Agriculture). It has a student enrollment of 17,500 registered for the Bachelor's, Master's and Doc-

toral Degrees in its seven Faculties and eight Schools: The Faculties of Humanities, Science, Social Sciences, Law, Agriculture, Medicine and Dental Medicine; the Schools of Overseas Students, Applied Science and Technology, Education, Pharmacy, Social Work, Business Administration, Nutritional and Domestic Science, Graduate Library School, and the Centre for Pre-Academic Studies.

In the past 49 years, the University had conferred: 32,877 degrees; 20,940 Bachelor's degrees; 8,298 Master's degrees; 1,883 Doctor of Philosophy degrees; 1,483 Doctor of Medicine degrees; 242 Doctor Medicinæ Dentariæ degrees; 31 Doctor of Laws degrees. The academic staff of the Hebrew University includes 88 recipients of the Israel Prize and 30 of the Rothschild Prize. Over 12,000 scientific works have been published

and some 3,000 research projects completed in the last five years.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MEDAL:

Obverse: A long line of stylized student-figures enters the buildings of the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus. In a shallow recess above the buildings are emblems symbolizing physics, chemistry, medicine, archaeology and law. Below the line of students is the inscription in Hebrew and English, "*For instruction shall come forth from Zion*".

Reverse: On the left side, the inscription in Hebrew and English: *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem Jubilee 1925-1975*. On the right side the emblem of the University silhouetted in relief.

The medal will be issued in bronze 59mm, and silver 45mm.

SECURITY POINTS ON 1948 ISRAEL NOTES CITED IN NEWLY-DISCOVERED MEMO

by Dr. Samuel Halperin

A recently-discovered internal memorandum of the *E. Lewin-Epstein, Ltd.* reveals some interesting facts about Israel's first and rarest fractional notes.

The notes under discussion are the 50 and 100 mils 1948 Israel Treasury issues, identified as *N-1*, 2 by Sylvia Haffner and *F-1*, 2 by A. H. Kagan. As indicated in these catalogs, the notes were issued in October 1948 and withdrawn in 1950. Crisp, uncirculated sets are rarely seen today.

What follows is new information found in a September 3, 1948, memo of the printers, *E. Lewin-Epstein* (offices at 55 Nahlat Benyamin, Tel Aviv, with printing works in Bat Yam). To aid in detecting counterfeits, the company indicates that "security points" have been engraved in the yellow background of both the 50 and 100 mil fractional notes. These critical points are:

- "1. The top left-hand vase bears two upright white strokes in each of the upper curls.
2. The right-hand vase has one horizontal stroke in each of the lower curls. (white)
3. The first flower shaped ornament appearing above the guilloche on the right of the bank-note has a white square around the small check pattern.
4. The second flower shaped ornament above the guilloche on the left hand of the notes has the line raster running in a contrary direction to the general background."

One further point for the specialist: I have checked every note in this series that has come to my attention. To date, I have found 100 mils notes with Hebrew series letters (in the lower right hand corner of the face) bearing the following letter combinations: alef-alef, alef-bet, alef-gimel and alef-dalet. However, the 50 mils note has only been seen with the combination alef-alef. Question for *Shekel* readers: Have you seen any other combinations on either note?

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THREE SO. CALIFORNIA ISRAEL COIN CLUBS PLAN ISRAEL-HOLYLAND EXPO

The INS of San Gabriel Valley, the Israel Coin Club of San Fernando Valley, and the INS of Orange County, together serving hobbyists in more than 1,000 square miles of Southern California have joined hands to plan and present a most unique and spectacular event to be held in the metropolitan Los Angeles area on Sunday, May 16, 1976.

The Israel-Holyland Expo '76, which is receiving the full support of the American Israel Numismatic Association, will feature a forum, displays, and a bourse of Holyland coins, stamps, medals, paper money exomunia, artifacts, jewelry, books, etc. spanning a period of 3,000 years. The full-day show will be held at the Workman's Circle Hall, 1619 South Robertson in Los Angeles.

An organizational meeting of the three southland Israel coin clubs was chaired by Jerry Yahalom, General Chairman of the show. Attending as representatives of the three sponsoring groups were Mel Wacks, Assistant

Chairman; Larry Tapper, Anita Drapkin, Nate and Esther Bromberg, Sally Marx, and Murray Singer.

After approving the time and place of Expo '76, other major decisions were made with the single objective of introducing as many people as possible to the enjoyment and rich rewards of collecting coins, stamps and other artifacts of the Land of the Bible, the home of the Jews from the 13th Century BC, the birthplace of Christianity, part of the Moslem world from the 7th to the early 20th Century, and Kingdom of the Christian Crusaders from 1099 to 1187.

Committee chairmanships were well distributed among the three Israel coin clubs and a call was issued inviting all club members to assist in any way possible.

General information may be obtained from Jerry Yahalom, General Chairman, P. O. Box 619, Encino, California 91316. Bourse applications are available from Sally Marx, P. O. Box 227, Canoga Park, California 91305.



From l. to r.: Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Olson, president, INS of Greater Miami; Mr. Virgil Hancock, president of American Numismatic Assn.; Mr. Morris Bram, president, AINA; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Schuman, Exec. V.P., AINA; N. H. Hacohen, IGCAM; and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Janis, Member, Board of Directors, AINA.

AINA LUNCHEON IN FLORIDA ATTRACTS CELEBRITIES

Miami Beach, Florida—The members of the Israel Numismatic Society of Greater Miami and all visiting members of the American Israel Numismatic Association attending the International Mid-Winter Coin Show, Miami, were guests at a luncheon hosted by the INS of Greater Miami and AINA. Among honored guests were such numismatic luminaries as Virgil Hancock, president of ANA; Morris Bram, president of AINA; and N. H. Hac-

ohen, Director of North America for the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, Jerusalem.

Ed Schuman, Executive Vice President of AINA was master of ceremonies. An invocation was delivered by Mr. J. Gulashakow.

Morris Bram, top executive of the national body of the host club, reported on the progress of the organization

Cont. next page

AINA SYMBOL CREATED FOR MEMBERSHIP USE

Would you like to have your membership in AINA imprinted on your letterhead or envelope? Are you a dealer who is proud to tell his customers of your membership in the world's largest organization of numismatists dedicated to the collection and study of Israel and Holyland numismatics?



This emblem, ready for reproduction, is available to you in a variety of sizes ready for use: FREE. This special AINA symbol has been created since use of the Shekel-symbol of AINA (which is part of the incorporation as a non-profit educational organization) may NOT be used for activities outside of AINA sponsored programs, etc. Repro art is free from AINA.

The new membership symbol has been created in the shape of a coin, with "AINA" imprinted two ways: Light on a dark field (as shown) but also dark on a light field. The user will have his option in choice of the symbol in size and coloration.

The new AINA membership symbol was designed by Nat Sobel, president of the INS of Brooklyn, well-known for a number of medallion and token designs in the recent past.

CALIFORNIANS PROPOSE GOULD FOR GROVE MEMORIAL

December 24, 1975

To: All AINA Members
All Israel Coins Clubs

From: Dr. Sol Taylor

The untimely and tragic loss of our dear and beloved friend MAURICE M. GOULD leaves a heavy pall on our lives.

Many of his friends are eagerly and willingly working on suitable memorial projects in the numismatic, literary, and humanistic fields which he is so close akin. A devoted group of friends in California is dedicated to the creation of a living memorial to Maury.

We are planning to plant no less than 1,000 trees in a grove in Israel designated as the "Maurice M. Gould Memorial Grove". It would have been his wish to sit beneath the shady branches of such trees planted in honor of others who preceded him into Heaven.

His memory will never fade from the hearts and minds of those who knew him. This living memorial will carry on those good thoughts to generations to come.

We ask all interested persons to contribute a tree to make this grove a reality. Even three dollars will insure one tree. Donations can be sent to Chairman, N. Bromberg, 15540 Lambert Road, Whittier, CA 90604. Checks should be made out to "Jewish National Fund" or "JNF—M. M. Gould Memorial Grove".

Donations of coins, books, or other materials are also welcome since the committee plans to hold auctions on behalf of this project at the various Israel Coin Clubs. The cooperation of AINA members, INS groups, and interested parties is sincerely appreciated.

We hope by this time next year, our goal will have been achieved.

Shalom
Sol Taylor

FLORIDA HOSTS AINA LUNCHEON (Cont.)

which has seen record growth of individual memberships matched by expansion of the INS clubs to many large American cities. He reported on the oncoming Eighth Annual Study Tour to Israel in early March and the Fourth Annual AINA-sponsored Greater New York Coin Convention for May 6 through 9, 1976.

Mr. Nahum Hacohen, recently returned from Israel, reviewed the existing political climate and numismatic plans for the balance of 1976 of the

Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

Ed Schuman presented Sidney Olson, president of the INS of Greater Miami with awards for his contribution to AINA along with a Second Place Award for the showing of Israel Military Tokens at the International Mid-Winter Coin Show.

The audience was treated to a slide presentation which defined the die varieties of the 1960 One Agora coins of Israel.

ANOTHER JEWISH CHARITY TOKEN

by Ya'akov Meshorer

The last issue of *The Shekel* (Vol. VIII, No. 4) contains the description of a hitherto unpublished Jewish token from Syria. Since publication, we have seen several of them, all from the same source: A grandson of the Rabbi of the Jewish community of Aleppo (Syria) who possessed them until he very recently released them to the market.



Among the last group of these tokens we examined, there was another kind of token, made on the same type of very thin flan of copper. Its description is as follows:

Uniface bracteate, 20mm 0.5 gr. Inscription (in Hebrew): "This for charity," but there are two additional letters, פד whose meaning is doubtful. The only reconstruction we can suggest is that these are the abbreviations of either פרוטות ד' (4 perutot = 4 mites) or פעמים ד' (4 times); both abbreviations are possible and previously used in Jewish sources (see 'Ozar Rashe Tevot', 'Thesaurus of Hebrew Abbreviations' by Shmuel Ashkenazi and Dov Jarden, Rubin Mass, Jerusalem 1969, Hebrew). In that case, the meaning would be that this token is a kind of quadruple token.

The man who brought it admits that he can ever remember seeing only one other token of this type. We have seen only the specimen illustrated here, but we hope that, after this publication, more specimens will be revealed.

JUDAICA AMERICANA (Cont.)

tician he achieved great fame for his time, but his home life was not a happy one. He was married to a non-Jew, Natalie St. Martin, who left him to live in Paris, taking their daughter with her.

Judah Benjamin devoted himself completely to political activities. He was the first professing Jew to be elected to the United States Senate, as a Whig in 1852. When the Democratic party committed itself to the cause of Southern rights, he was elected as a Democrat in 1856. He was an early and active advocate of secession from the Union as the only way of assuring the survival of the Southern life-style and Southern institutions.

President Jefferson Davis was very friendly with Judah Benjamin and relied on his counsel and friendship. He appointed Judah Benjamin to several important cabinet positions, the highest of which was that of Secretary of State, the post he held until the collapse of the Confederacy. To the credit of President Davis, it should be pointed out that he defended Benjamin against many anti-Semitic attacks directed at him.

When the Confederacy failed, Judah Benjamin was the only Confederate leader who chose exile rather than life in a defeated South. He escaped to England where he once again built himself a very successful career and distinction as a lawyer.

He retired because of ill health in 1882, and moved to Paris where he rejoined his wife and daughter. There he died in 1884.

Judah Benjamin apparently took little if any interest in Jewish affairs and there is no evidence that he ever supported any Jewish causes, or that he belonged to any Jewish organizations. On the other hand, he never denied his Jewish origins, and though married to a Catholic girl, he never converted to her religion.

The \$2 Confederate notes bearing the portrait of Judah Phipps Benjamin are possibly the only items of *numismatic Judaica* remaining from the short-lived and tragic period in American history known as the Civil War.

BULLETIN



AINA

TO ISSUE FIRST
OF AN ANNUAL
SERIES OF MEDALS
IN TIME FOR MAY
GREATER N. Y. CONVENTION

Available only to AINA Members

THE FIRST MEDAL WILL
COMMEMORATE AMERICA'S
BICENTENNIAL YEAR

For details: See next issue of
The Shekel



Plan now for the
4th Annual
GREATER N. Y.
COIN
CONVENTION
MAY 6-9, 1976

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A GIANT BOURSE

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OVER 100 CASES OF EXHIBITS

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**AUCTION BY PARAMOUNT
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●
SUNDAY, MAY 9, IS AINA DAY
WITH WORKSHOP, LUNCHEON AND FORUM